

New York Herald-Tribune

# JAN 16 1935 **Negro Crusader Lays His Arrest To 'Persecutors'**

**'Prominent People' Named by Mohametan Include Police and Ex-Alderman**

**Called 'Harlem Hitler'**

**Long Hair, Riding Breeches, Green Shirt Awe Court**

Sufi Abdul Hamid, the Mahometan Negro crusader of Harlem, is in the toils of the law again, convicted of preaching atheism and of selling pamphlets on the street without a license; but the charges, he explained last night in West Side jail, are due entirely to the machinations of his enemies, and he has no doubt that if the truth could be aired in court he would go free to continue his work for the advancement of his race.

"I am charged," he said, "with preaching atheism, which is quite strange to me. I never have advocated anything relative to atheism, but I am opposed to the ideas of various theologians, especially as promulgated in Harlem. When a man becomes a slave to any dogma or creed he becomes a useless entity to the social order in which he lives.

"I approve of the philosophy of Christ, and even of the teachings of Christianity," he added, though he is himself a Mohametan, "but as advocated by the average Negro minister it is detrimental to the Negro race."

Sun Abdul Hamid was remanded to jail for sentence Saturday by Magistrate Thomas A. Aurelio, sitting in Washington Heights court, who found him guilty of preaching atheism and selling pamphlets without a license.

**"Conservative" Costume Awe Court**

He created a stir when he appeared in the courtroom, his rotund, six-foot figure topped by a purple turban and clad in a green, gold-braided cape, pale-green shirt, riding breeches and boots. He wears a mustache, pointed and turned up at the ends, a pointed goatee and long hair.

"Stand back and let me look at you," Magistrate Aurelio said, after staring at him in awed silence for a moment. "Why are you wearing this outfit?"

"Well," Sufi replied in his deep, mellifluous voice, "we all have our idiosyncrasies. Gandhi has his goat-skin; Spinoza wore long hair, and I'm

addressed as I am because I don't believe in the social behaviorism of other people."

As the answer seemed to leave no room for debate, Magistrate Aurelio turned his attention to another point. "Do you regard yourself as the Harlem Hitler?" he asked.

"I don't know what I am," the defendant answered, "this trial has confused me so."

He insisted he had been told by police of both the West 123d Street and the West 135th Street stations that he did not need a permit for his street meeting, at which he was arrested last Thursday while haranguing a crowd in front of 2300 Seventh Avenue.

**Blames Enemies for Woes**

"I am a hindrance to certain factions in Harlem," he explained last night. "My principles and ideals seem to conflict and clash with certain of their conventional ideas. I believe that every man has the God-given and inalienable right to seek and pursue happiness regardless of his creed or color. I also believe that the only way the people whom I represent, usually called black people or Negroes, can obtain proper representation is by organizing themselves into a gigantic and cohesive body with intelligent and fearless and honest leadership.

"I also believe that any man who attempts to lead the Negro in such light must suffer not only the persecution and prosecution that he may confront from time to time, but, owing to the previous tradition among the American Negro, the so-called intelligentsia of said race will and can be used to exterminate such person.

"That last part," he said parenthetically, "is my candid opinion of my position. The ministers of Harlem have met together to find a way to stop me. They apparently used, I would dare say, some political pressure, in view of the prominent people who appeared against me in this very minor case."

He mentioned "two police captains, a former alderman and others" as being the "prominent people."

Sufi said he lived at 353 West 118th Street, with his wife, Sultana, and his son, Achmed. He was born, he said, in Halfa, in the Sudan, "on the sixth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Three," the son of a rug merchant, with whom he traveled in Egypt, Persia, Hindustan and Greece before coming to this country at the age of fourteen with an uncle, who died the following year.

**Heads Manufacturing Company**

When not occupied with his race crusade he is president of the Cressville Manufacturing Company, 208 West 135th Street, wholesale jobbers in coffee, vanilla and baking powder, and is also vice-president of the Islamic Contemporary Improvement Corporation, importers of palm oil, palm kernels, cocoa and skins from West Africa. He is, as well, founder and president of the Negro Industrial Clerical Alliance, which, he says, has placed hundreds of Negro girls in decent and respectable business positions in Harlem.

Police credit him with the ability to speak seventeen languages, but he modestly restricts his claims to Sudanese, Hindustani, Arabic, Persian, Greek (which he learned while at school in Athens), Italian, and Chinese, which he says he learned while on a trip to China in 1923, "psychologizing and analyzing the people and their social order." Court attendants verified his knowledge of Italian and Greek.

*Scrantonian*

JAN 27 1935

## **Former Colored Congressman In Fight Against Communism**

For several years past the communists of America have been endeavoring to enlist the colored race to their vicious purposes. In nearly every lynching case in the South and when negroes have been accused of crimes the communists of the North have expressed sympathy and offered aid in the manner that would indicate that the communists and socialists were the best friends of the colored race. That this has been done to attract negro votes to the communists and socialists whenever candidates of these creeds have appeared is obvious. Of late the agents of socialism and communism have been working with vigor in the Harlem section of New York, which is thickly settled by negroes. The communists have had two colored men in the lecture field trying to persuade the Harlem people that communism offers the negro the only hope for advancement.

To combat this vicious propaganda, former Congressman Oscar De Priest, of Chicago, went to New York recently. De Priest, the only negro member of the House of Representatives for several years, was defeated at the last election by another colored man in Chicago. But the former member has not lost his spirit of loyalty. He has called the attention of his race to the dangers of embracing socialism or communism or any of the creeds that have originated across the sea. In an interview, De Priest said: "I feel strongly that the only salvation of the negro in this country lies in allegiance to our present form of government. The appeals of communism and socialism are designed only to mislead the colored worker." He further advanced expressions of

good, sound sense in the following: "Communism opposes three fundamentals of American life, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to serve God as the individual sees fit. Take away these rights from any class and immediately it is hopelessly sunk. Moreover, communism advocates brute force to enforce the edicts of its demand."

The views of former Congressman De Priest on the subject that seems in some localities to have attracted the sympathies of people who

ought to know better, are worthy of consideration. In a few words this negro statesman has demonstrated qualities that entitle him to recognition as a patriot of the type that has been instrumental in making America the home of the greatest of nations.

**NEW ORLEANS, LA. STATES**

JAN 12 1935

## **NEGROES WARNED BY DEPRIEST TO BEWARE OF REDS' INFLUENCE**

Warning members of his race to beware of the danger that besets this and other governments through the activities of Communistic organizers, Oscar DePriest, negro former congressman from Illinois, talked at length last night in New Orleans on the subject of government and the part negroes should play in upholding the constitution. He was addressing members of the negro League for Civil Rights and Justice in the Louisiana Freedmen Auditorium. The auditorium was packed.

"They don't mean you any good," DePriest told his hearers, speaking of Communist organizers. "Don't fool with anything that will disrupt this government. The only one who can eliminate prejudice is yourself, through your intelligence, your loyalty, your indispensability and your exercise of your constitutional rights."

The former negro congressman said the time is coming "when every red-blooded American will be needed to defend this country against communism." He said the only way to gain educational and other advantages is by the ballot after resorting to the courts to attain suffrage and civil rights.

Praising the league for its efforts to win for negroes "civil, political and social justice," DePriest said: "And by social justice we don't mean social equality."

He said thousands of negroes could register and vote, if they would, but

"they just don't. You used to have to pay a poll tax, but Huey Long knocked that out. Whether he was right or wrong I don't know and don't care. Politics gave him his power; remember, I'm neither trying to boost him or knock him."

DePriest then told of the negro's contributions to American arms since the War for Independence. He condemned lynching as violative of the constitution and legal process.



## DE PRIEST IN LOUISIANA

help.

Oscar De Priest, friend and supporter of the crawfish, Negro politician of Chicago, has been in Louisiana during the past week, and has made addresses to the colored population of New Orleans in which he stated that he was "greatly in favor of Senator Long in appreciation for what he HAS DONE for the Negroes of the United States, and Louisiana especially." You can mark our words, the importation of such men as DePriest, and coming at this time especially, is done for a PURPOSE. That purpose, it does not take a wise man to guess. Some of these fine mornings the people of the United States are going to wake up to find out that its Public Enemy No. 1 is no kidnaper or bank robber. When such men as Arthur Brisbane recognize this danger, it is high time that the common people were waking up. Until the people of this State set the pace, other States will naturally wonder WHY? Surely liberty-loving citizens of Louisiana are about fed up. They have stood just about all they are going to stand. Huey Long is treading on extremely dangerous ground when he lays open the voting franchise to the illiterates whom he hopes to use as a cats paw to further control Louisiana. His scheme will fail when the time comes for him to put it into execution. His military and Cossacks will indeed be busy if, and when, the voting franchise of Louisiana is taken out of the hands of the tax-paying public and put into the hands of those illiterates who own nothing, want nothing and care less about governmental affairs. We shall see what we shall see.

Vicksburg, Miss., Post  
March 7, 1935

## Long and the Colored Vote

The following printed communication, sent out from the "Share the Wealth Club" of Louisiana from the state capital, at Baton Rouge, received by members of the Legislature and sheriffs, reads as follows:

"To the Members of the Senate, House of Representatives and Sheriffs of the State of Louisiana,

"Gentlemen:

"Senator Long has requested me to communicate with you in order to have the state organized in our 'Share the Wealth' Clubs. He wants the organization formed by parishes, naming the club after the parish. You have many friends in your parish and district, and I am calling upon you for

"No doubt you have read the approval of Mr. DePriest, member of Congress for Illinois, of the Share the Wealth program. Mr. DePriest is one of the outstanding colored men of the United States, and after a conference had with Senator Long has agreed to deliver the support of the colored newspapers and magazines of the country, which are many in number. See that the colored man is registered as to poll tax registration so he can vote. It is our intention to get the vote of the colored man in the general election, when the senator will run for the President. So please see that he is treated fairly and carry the colored along with you at least during 1936 election, when the senator will get the colored vote and make a showing. "In order to secure funds with which to carry out the work, I have suggested that when you form your 'Share the Wealth' Club, you name a treasurer and fix the price of the buttons as low as one dollar each which your treasurer will remit to Washington. The colored ministers are in accord with us and are now taking up collections in the colored churches, they will remit directly to Senator Long.

"James O'Connor, attorney general, has spoken his approval of the club and supports the ideas as enunciated by Mr. DePriest and Mr. O'Connor will be active with us in forming the clubs in this state.

"Knowing you to be a supporter of the principal involved as well as Senator Long's program, I am calling upon you to help us and do it without delay. You can write me at the State Capital, Baton Rouge, La., or write James O'Connor, attorney general, New Orleans, La., in reference to the clubs.

"Respectfully,

"GERALD A. SMITH.

"If you want a reply to your letters send postage and self-addressed envelope.

"Oscar DePriest in his interview in New Orleans during his recent visit praised Senator Long as the saviour of the negro race in the south. He said: Senator Long has released the negro from the bonds of political slavery in the south by passing an act which does not make it necessary for them to get poll taxes. This is our first step towards political freedom and the exercise of our rights that have been guaranteed to us. We are entitled to business, political and social freedom. You have gotten our first step and with the registering of negroes now in New Orleans you can accomplish what you want. Senator Long's strength is with the votes. The negroes in this state have the votes and can make their strength felt. Senator Long has been our friend and we should remember our friends."

"Mr. James O'Connor, jurist and attorney general, supported the views of Mr. DePriest in an address to the people at New Orleans."

# NEGRO TOILERS NEED 'DAILY,' FORD SHOWS

## Effort Can Bring 50,000 New Readers Urged by Browder, Leader Says—Cites Work of 'Daily' on Scottsboro and Harlem

By James W. Ford  
Harlem Section Organizer, Communist Party

In tumbledown shacks in the Black Belt, Negro sharecroppers have been known to gather—sometimes as many as ten or twelve—while a single copy of the Daily Worker is persued by the entire group.

There the Daily Worker is awaited eagerly. Time and again a question arises, and the suggestion is made: "Wait until the Daily Worker comes, perhaps we'll find the explanation there." This shows how vital our paper has come to be among the oppressed Negro people of the South.

In Harlem—the largest Negro capital in the world—the Daily Worker has shown what a tremendous force it can be. It was the "Daily" that first exposed the real social roots for the spontaneous uprising of the Negro people of Harlem on March 19, when the capitalist press sought to indict them as "looters" and "hoodlums."

### Cites "Daily's" Power

Scottsboro and the Daily Worker are interchangeable words. Without the Daily Worker, it is fair to say that the hideous frame-up of these innocent Negro boys would never have become the international issue that it is.

Not only has our "Daily" bare every step of this attempted lynching, but it has been the prime force—as the central organ of the Communist Party—in mobilizing the mass protest which has thus far saved these boys from death in the electric chair.

The Daily Worker is now carrying on a campaign for 50,000 new readers. A large portion of these new readers can and must come from the Negro people.

The "Daily" is the chief fighter against lynching, Jim-crowism and every form of discrimination practiced against the Negro masses.

The "Daily" carries on an unceasing and militant struggle for relief for the Negro people.

The building up of the circulation of the Daily Worker would be one of the strongest weapons in all these struggles. The capitalist press is the press of the lynchers and slave masters of the Negro people.

In our work, especially in Har-

lem, we have found that there is a fertile field for the Daily Worker. The Negro workers are becoming increasingly skeptical of the reformist press, such as the Pittsburgh Courier, the Amsterdam News and the New York Age.

They are beginning to realize that this is the press of the bosses—those who exploit them, discriminate against them and starve them and their families. Let us, especially in Harlem, make the building of our "Daily" a central task. Time is short. Fascism is no longer a mere threat, it is becoming a reality in our everyday life. Let us strengthen our revolutionary fortresses before it is too late.

Behind the Daily Worker drive!



Negro and Radicalism - 1935

# Alabama Governor Stalls Daily Worker, New York N.Y. Action on Sedition Bill

7-16-35

## Wave of Protest Forces Delay in Signing Vicious Measure Passed by State Legislature

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 15.—Sparring for time, Klan Governor Bibb Graves postponed until July 30 action on the sweeping anti-sedition bill, passed by the House and by a one vote majority in the Senate. An increasing wave of protest throughout the state has caused Graves to make many maneuvers. Early this week he held two open hearings on the bill.

The delay is obviously an attempt by the Governor to wait until such time as the protest wave has slowed down. To force a veto it will be necessary to continue a flood of protests to Montgomery.

Section 3 of the proposed bill is a copy of the infamous Birmingham "literature" ordinance, making "possession" of two copies of working class literature come within its sweeping provisions.

Commenting editorially on this part of the bill, the Alabama Journal states: "What a weapon to put in the hands of ruthless and unscrupulous men! Suppose a hypothetical case. Under this section two little pieces of seditious literature can be secretly planted in the pockets of any man and he can be arrested and railroaded to jail as a seditionist. It is the easiest way Alabama has ever provided to get rid of men who certain interests think are 'talking too much'."

The case posed by the Alabama Journal is identical with the facts in Birmingham prosecutions under its "literature" ordinance. As recently as July 2, Milton McDuff of the T. C. I. McDuff "Detective" Agency, planted six copies of a May Day leaflet in an attempt to frame Wood and Mitchell, I. L. D. organizers. McDuff is in possession of 44 more copies, having obtained 50 copies of this leaflet in a raid in Tarrant City a few weeks ago. All individuals and organizations are urged to continue flooding protests to Governor Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Alabama, demanding a veto of the anti-sedition bill.

Dr. Harry F. Ward, national chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, has urged all lovers of liberty throughout the nation to write Governor Graves requesting him to veto the bill. "Such

## EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

### RACIAL INCREASE

TODAY there are more than 2,500 Negroes in the Communist International, according to good authorities. In 1930 there were only 250. The growth has been tenfold in five years.

At that the figures tell only part of the story. Negroes who by reason of training and circumstances are conservatives are being driven into co-operating with the Communists. They have to express in some way their opposition to such iniquities as the conviction of Angelo Herndon by the state of Georgia under a statute passed for the control of slaves.

Nothing else need be expected. If De-Leon crossed unknown seas in search of the fountain of youth, and a flower turns its petals to the sun, then for Negroes to know that some men have advantages in the United States means they will try to get them. They can not help reasoning that it is better to tear down an old system that promised benefits but does not give them.

The swing of Negroes toward radicalism is something new for them. Though they have little and therefore nothing to conserve, they have been staunch supporters of the established order. It has taken brazen, long-continued, contemptuous refusal to live up to the principles of Americanism to make them realize that this democracy so far as they are concerned imposes responsibilities but withholds benefits.

Even when the Communists seized upon the Scottsboro boys for exploitation, to Negroes it was a publicity stunt. But today their leading men are signing Angelo Herndon's plea for release from the Georgia sentence. Negroes do not agree that activity which is within the law in New York City can be a crime in Georgia, even if it does violate an antebellum slave law. To express that conviction, they take a stand along with the Communists. Time will tell how far this swing toward Communism will go among Negroes. It is certain to continue so long as prejudice joins all Negroes together as undesirable.

Long before 1930 this paper made a prophecy that Negroes would turn to the Communists if the American people continued to deny them the liberty, equality and opportunity of the Constitution. That movement was harder to get under way than it will be to increase. There must be a let-up in the American people's insistence upon "keeping the Negro down in his place," or he will find his own outlet. For the joy of service the American people ought to live up to the high pronouncements of the Constitution. But if they will not, and prefer to worship at the altar of prejudice, these 2,500 Negro communists are the forerunners of a formidable attack upon the sham democracy they maintain here

—Kansas City Call



Chattanooga, Tenn.  
TIMES

JUL 22 1935  
NEW GROUP FORMED

## To Fight Spread of Communism and Other Radical Tendencies.

To the Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

I am writing to you as the national commander of the American Nationalists, Inc., an organization whose purpose is not only the defense of the constitution, but also the defense of states' rights and old-fashioned American ideals and principles. We were organized some three months ago and were incorporated in April in New York state.

Today we are in the process of organization in some twenty states and by Christmas expect to be organized in every state in the Union. Because of the pro-American editorial policy of your paper, which we so much admire, we thought that you might be interested in our organization, the American Nationalists, Inc., which very shortly will begin the forming of local posts of that organization in your vicinity.

We know there are a number of societies organized for similar principles which reach small sections and certain classes of our population, but we believe that the American Nationalists, Inc., is the only aggressively pro-American fighting organization that reaches the rank and file of the American people, regardless of class, creed or party, now in existence.

Our efforts in fighting the spread of communism among Negroes should especially interest you in the south, as it is considerably more of a menace to you than to any other section of the country. The radical agitation over the Scottsboro case, the case of Angelo Herndon, convicted Negro communist in Georgia, whose conviction was recently upheld by the United States supreme court, and the attempts in Arkansas and other southern states to spread revolutionary ideas among the Negro share-croppers should be sufficient proof that we are not exaggerating the danger.

The open preaching to the Negroes in the large cities of the north of complete social equality under communist rule, plus the promise of the red radical leaders to set up a Negro republic in ten states of the south when they come into power, I believe is sufficient proof of the gravity of the situation today.

DUDLEY P. GILBERT,  
National Commander American Nationalists, Inc.  
Newport, R. I.

### MR. HIRSCH'S LETTER

Elsewhere on this page is printed a letter from Alfred H. Hirsch, chairman of the committee of five writers which paid a visit to Alabama some time ago ostensibly for the purpose of investigating civil

liberties.

As to the conditions which Mr. Hirsch and his committee have not been misled by your slander." will be noted that the first concerns only Birmingham. It will also be noted that no example of any abuse of the Downs ordinance is cited.

In view of the fact that the remainder of the State has nothing whatsoever to do with a Birmingham ordinance, it does not seem necessary that the committee should have issued blanket indictments of Alabama, after only two days here, such as the following:

"Once more Alabama has confirmed the widespread impression that she is unable to govern herself peacefully."

"It is impossible to investigate the abuse of civil liberties in Alabama, because civil liberties do not exist there."

As to any credit the committee may desire to take for Governor Graves's veto of the anti-sedition bill, it might be pointed out that the Governor had determined his course of action on the measure many days before the committee announced its intention of coming here. The Governor, it might be added, vetoed the bill not because of, but in spite of the committee's visit.

In regard to the insinuations that the news stories used in The Advertiser were unfair, we can only say that with the exception of one day The Advertiser used the full dispatches of the Associated Press, the most reliable news agency in the world. On the remaining day, The Advertiser's correspondent wrote a full and complete account of the attempted hoax the committee is said to have pulled at Clanton. The facts as carried in that story have not yet been controverted by the committee and constitute acceptable evidence that the affair was a deliberate hoax.

In regard to Willie Foster, with whom we are unacquainted either by personal knowledge, record or reputation, our advice to Mr. Hirsch is to turn over to the proper authorities such information as he may have about the same. Mere absence of a man whose existence has not been proved is not to be considered ample proof that a lynching has taken place. The Advertiser, not being a duly constituted official, has no authority over such matters.

Quoting Mr. Hirsch:

"We are much encouraged to learn that those liberals in Alabama who are

acquainted with members of the com-

mittee have not been misled by your slander."

Until this time the committee has failed to name any reputable individual in the State of Alabama with whom it has had consultations regarding the "status of civil liberties" in this State. The identity of the "liberals" who are acquainted with members of the committee must remain a secret, we presume.

In conclusion The Advertiser takes issue with the assertion that the committee "will gladly turn the job (of protecting civil liberties) over to citizens of Alabama as soon as an organized effort is made by them to assume this responsibility."

In the first place, no true liberal in Alabama concedes that the job has been turned over to the committee. In the second place, if Mr. Hirsch expects the liberals of Alabama to join in an organized effort to perpetrate such fraudulent schemes as exemplified by his committee's recent visit, he must needs be disappointed. Finally, the committee, by antagonizing those forces in Alabama best able to aid the cause they ostensibly represent, has injured rather than aided that cause.

### A LETTER FROM MR. HIRSCH, THE LIBERTARIAN

Editor The Advertiser:

We wish to call your attention to the fact that you have consistently misrepresented the incidents connected with the recent visit to Alabama of the writers' committee of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

You laid the foundation for your campaign against the committee in your editorial of July 23 which concerns itself solely with an effort to create hostility toward the personnel of the committee regarding the issues involved. What are the particular conditions which the committee seeks to correct?

First: The committee contends that the Birmingham Downs' literature ordinance, which, as amended, makes the mere possession of "sedition literature" a crime, is unconstitutional. Members of the committee distributed copies of The Daily Worker, The New Masses, Labor Defender, The Nation, The New Republic, and the New Theater Magazine, in the presence of officers for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of the ordinance. Contrary to the report carried in your news story of July 31, members of the committee were arrested, fingerprinted and photographed in Birmingham. (You had every reason to be advised of this fact, since it was reported in The Birmingham Age-Herald of July 30.) However, no charges were placed against members of the committee, though there is a record of a number of arrests and convictions resulting from the possession of similar

publications.

Birmingham police officials are thus exposed as deliberately evading a constitutional test of the ordinance. The committee has found, as a result of this investigation, that this ordinance is being used for the purpose of molesting labor organizers and exposing them to anti-labor elements. There have been a long series of incidents during the past year in Birmingham in which arrests under the Downs' ordinance have been followed by kidnappings in the course of which the organizers have been brutally beaten. A number of these attacks have been reported to the police, together with the license number of the car, and other identifying data. There has been no punishment of the gangsters.

Second: At the time the committee made its visit a vicious anti-sedition bill was awaiting the Governor's signature. The committee proposed to urge the Governor to veto the bill. In Birmingham the committee was confronted with a veiled threat by Police Chief Hollums who stated that his force was insufficient to insure the safety of the committee. This incitement developed into an open attack when the car in which the committee was riding was fired upon on the way to Montgomery. Your news account and editorial of July 31, in which you attempt to cover up this lawlessness, by following the lead of the Governor in charging that the attack was framed by us as a publicity stunt, has met with sharpest criticism from citizens in various parts of the country.

We are much encouraged to learn that those liberals in Alabama who are acquainted with members of the committee have not been misled by your slander. We are glad to learn that, in spite of his obvious animosity toward our committee, Governor Graves did veto the anti-sedition bill.

In your editorial of Aug. 2, you take occasion to pat yourself on the back because, as you claim, there have been no lynchings in Alabama this year. In answer to this, we ask you to produce Willie Foster, missing for more than two months from Selma where he went to investigate a series of brutal arrests and beatings.

In this same editorial you raise a very important question: "What possible means can Alabama use to offset the reflections and implications of occurrences of this type?" The answer is not difficult to find. The liberal citizens of Alabama must undertake to investigate for themselves the conditions existing in the State, expose them, punish the offenders, and put an end to the lawlessness. We "outside agitators" will gladly turn the job over to citizens of Alabama as soon as an organized effort is made by them to assume this responsibility.

In the meantime, however, it must be clearly recognized that a suppression of civil liberties in any part of the country is a national issue.

This letter is only authorized for publication if it is carried in its entirety.

ALFRED H. HIRSCH,  
Secretary, National Committee for the  
Defense of Political Prisoners.

Aug. 15.



# Anti-Red Law Statute By Default Challenged By Anti-Sedition Measure's Dothan Writer Sponsors Score Victory Earlier Than Expected

DOTHAN, ALA., Aug. 16.—The Dothan Eagle, edited by former State Senator Julian Hall, today carried a front-page editorial ridiculing the anti-sedition bill, which Gov. Graves vetoed a day too late to make his veto effective, and of-day became law by default when Gov. Graves who vetoed it on Aug. 2, reached the conclusion that he waited too long.

The Governor's decision possibly was a mistake. In a mocking article under the caption "The Street anti-sedition bill, drafted to furnish authorities with a facile weapon against radical agitators, yesterday became law by default when Gov. Graves waited one day too long to veto the anti-sedition bill, it is requested that the former be certified automatically becomes the law in Alabama."

"Because Gov. Graves waited one day too long to veto the anti-sedition bill, it is requested that the former be certified automatically becomes the law in Alabama."

"As a newspaper believing implicitly in the fundamental importance of free speech and a free press, The Eagle is interested in testing this drastic and wholly unnecessary law."

"Therefore we advocate the overthrow of Alabama's government by violence. They were prepared to act yesterday. We urge the citizens to arm themselves and there were indications that the Gov. with shillalahs, set out for Montgomery. The Alabama Legislature who voted for the anti-sedition bill. We advocate that they also be kicked swiftly in the after deck of their pantaloons. We advocate that they be chased out of the historic and chagrined old Capitol and back to the dunghills of their barnyards."

"After these ex-statesmen are thoroughly subdued, we advocate that the government of Alabama be changed from a so-called democracy to one of communism. Blood will be shed, of course, but capitalism and the curse of the private profit must be destroyed, all property seized by the people, to be owned by the people, and all profits to be shared alike by every one—white, black, old, young, competent, incompetent, Christian and heathen."

"Come, comrades! Let's be marching! Down with democracy! Down with capitalism with its swollen security scavengers and bloated bondholders!"

## Street Bill Law; Veto Too Late, Graves Admits

Decision Forestalls Test  
Before Supreme Court;  
Clerical Error Blamed

The Street anti-sedition bill, drafted to furnish authorities with a facile weapon against radical agitators, yesterday became law by default when Gov. Graves waited one day too long to veto the anti-sedition bill, it is requested that the former be certified automatically becomes the law in Alabama."

Questions were told by Gov. Graves that he did not check the elapsed time personally, and my clerical force misinformed me of the time I had. They told me I had until Aug. 2 to veto the bill."

Yesterday's development was foreshadowed by the action of the bill's sponsors who, when the vetoed measure was returned to the House, secured postponement of its consideration. At that time their plan was to apply to the Supreme Court for an advisory opinion as to whether the veto had not been delayed too long.

Following a conference participated in by Representatives Lusk, Welch, and Sparks, of Barbour, the following summary of the status of the anti-sedition bill was prepared:

"Section 125 of the Constitution provides that the Governor must return a bill to the House in which it originates within six days, Sunday excepted, after it shall have been presented to him. The Supreme Court has construed this to mean calendar days, and that the sixth day must be a legislative day. If the House is in recess on the sixth day, then the Governor must return it within two days after the re-assembling. The court has held this to mean legislative days."

"The Governor received the bill on June 28, 1935. The sixth day therefore, expired on July 5, 1935. On that day the Legislature was in recess. It reassembled on July 10, 1935, and met again on July 30, 1935, making two legislative days after the expiration of the six calendar days."

"The bill was returned to the House on August 2, 1935, one day late."

While it was not so announced, it was assumed that this group planned to offer a resolution calling for the Supreme Court's opinion. Meanwhile Representative Harrison, administration leader, was made privy to the group's plans and made a trip to the executive office."

When he returned he conferred with the bill's sponsors and subsequently offered the oral resolution that the bill with the veto message be returned to the Governor."

Backed by Legion  
The Street bill was sponsored by Col. W. S. Pritchard of Birmingham, at that time State commander of the

American Legion, and the Legion at its recent convention in Mobile adopted a resolution approving Pritchard's action.

In sending back the measure with his veto Aug. 2, the Governor said, "I think we have on our books as strong a law on this line as we can write. To pass more laws on this line is to say to the world—we have no faith in our courts—we have no faith in ourselves—in our ability to execute the laws of our state."

"Thought is never killed by force. We may be sure that we will stay safe so long as our speech, our press and our right to meet all are free . . ."

"We are taught to 'know the truth and the truth will make us free.' Let us not fear the enlightened opinion of our public."

Publishers and editors of the State, headed by Gover C. Hall, editor of The Advertiser and F. T. Raiford, of The Selma Times Journal called on the Governor to veto the measure as an infringement of the freedom of the press.

The Alabama Federation of Labor, likewise, appeared before the chief executive and urged a veto on the grounds it would place an "unfair weapon in the hands of police during strikes."

Col. Pritchard said that the measure was badly needed, particularly in Birmingham to combat Communist activities.

## WORCESTER, MASS. GAZETTE

### "Communist Converts"

Writer Fears Some Negroes Are Being Misled

To the Editor of The Gazette,

Sir:—In the People's Forum of the Sept. 3rd issue of The Evening Gazette I read a letter to the Editor written by An Interested Negro Reader under this heading, "Communist Converts," "Methods Used to Secure Them Among Negroes."

As a young man, a little older than the writer of the letter, a citizen of Boston, a Negro who has worked effectively in numerous organizations, religious and secular here in Boston and in other large

American cities with a large proportion of Negro residents, I feel that this misleading and confused letter of this Negro writer should be answered, not by a Communist but by some one who firmly believes in justice, brotherhood and every democratic right guaranteed us under our Constitution.

This particular speaker that the writer of the letter objected to so strongly was speaking, I understand, in defense of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys and against lynching and its attendant evils. Why this strenuous objection? Was not the speaker following in the

footsteps of Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Monroe Trotter and scores of other fighters for justice and freedom for all, regardless of race or color?

All fair-minded people, who dare to face the facts, know this is true. Why then this strenuous objection from a Negro worker?

Here is the answer in part. For many decades Negroes have been fed on illusions, robbed of their essential rights and liberties. It is any wonder our minds become warped?

We rejoice that a new day is dawning and Negroes are beginning to understand that all those who sincerely fight for true brotherhood, for real freedom, real justice, are their best friends, and we will struggle with them for a better world.

In regard to Russia I would say to this young man, believe Paul Robeson, Dr. Harry Ward and scores of respected and honest Americans who have traveled extensively in that remarkable land. The truth will prevail.

SAMUEL ROBINSON  
Boston, Sept. 9.  
NEW YORK JOURNAL

## OCT 7 1935 Negroes Hear Priest In Warning on Reds

Communism and its tenets were assailed by the Rev. William McCann, pastor of the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in Harlem, at confirmation rites presided over by Bishop Stephen J. Donahue.



## Sec. Ickes Orders Probe of Radicals at Howard Parley

graduate and one of the group, said "public officials in Alabama are working with the Ku Klux Klan and other terrorist organizations to kill liberal thought."

Alfred H. Hirsch, secretary of the committee, charged he was struck by a policeman in Birmingham, where they said they were arrested for selling copies of the Daily Worker, communist newspaper, and the New Masses, a radical weekly.

WASHINGTON—Opponents of the three-day conference at Howard University under the auspices of the Joint Committee on National Recovery and the Howard Department of Social Sciences in May, with a point this week when Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes ordered an investigation of the meeting.

A government official on Wednesday said that there would be a thorough investigation of the charges set forth in an affidavit, reported to have been submitted to Senator Millard Tydings (Dem., Md.), by Dr. Kelly Miller, retired Howard dean, and several others.

Senator Tydings is said to have turned the affidavit over to Secretary Ickes, nation ex-officio of the university who controls part of its funds.

### Mitchell Makes Kick

The meeting about which complaint is made was held in the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Hall. Several radicals and some members of the Communist party, who advocated overthrow of the present form of government, participated.

One of the sessions was presided over by Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of the university, who maintained a neutral stand while various solutions to the economic plight were being advocated.

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) announced soon after that he was introducing a resolution in the House asking for an investigation of the charges that "Communism is being taught openly at the university."

## ALABAMA OFFICIALS FLAYED BY WRITERS

### No Civic Liberties Exist in State, Says Group, on Return to N. Y.

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—(AP)—The group of writers representing the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, said today "no civil liberties exist in Alabama."

The writers recently visited Alabama. There, they charged, they were fired upon, assaulted and denied constitutional rights.

Miss Shirley Hopkins, Bryn Mawr

## Thugs Open Fire on Committee Sifting Gag Bill in Alabama

(By United Press)

CLANTON, Ala., July 30.—Five members of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, who are attempting to test Birmingham's anti-sedition law, were fired on today as they drove along a highway near here, they informed police. Five shots were fired into their car, they said. None was injured.

The committee car was driven by Miss Shirley Hopkins, the Montreat with her were Alfred Hirsch and Bruce Crawford.

Conroy and Gowan were in the rumble seat.

The bullets were fired from another automobile, a small roadster which drove alongside them, Hirsch told police.

He said there were two men in the car. Only one fired.

The group was enroute to Montgomery to ask veto of the state anti-sedition bill which is now on Governor Bibb Graves's desk.

After the shooting the party returned here, went to a hotel and asked police protection. Three state police arrived shortly afterward.

Hirsch asked the police to escort them to Montgomery and the officers tentatively agreed.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 30.—Three members of a commission which came here to investigate the operation of the Downs Literature Ordinance and other repressive laws against the working class were arrested yesterday, finger-printed and later released by Chief of Police Luther Hollums with the warning that he would not be responsible for their safety while in this city.

Those arrested were Bruce Crawford, Shirley Hopkins and Alfred Hirsch, secretary of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, which sponsored the investigating commission. They were charged with violation of the

Downs law by selling copies of the Nation, New Republic, New Masses and the Daily Worker in front of the City Hall in an effort to test the constitutionality of the law. Hirsch was roughly handled by one of the police hoodlums when he refused to answer a question.

By releasing the three arrested members of the group, Birmingham police showed their fear of a test case on the Downs' law. They at the same time openly instigated fascist attacks against the group. Telegrams, demanding the safety of the investigating commission, should be sent at once to Chief of Police Luther Hollums, Birmingham, Ala., and to Governor Graves, Montgomery, Ala.

## CALAMITY FOR NEGROES

In connection with the report from Moscow that the announcement from an American delegate to the Communist Internationale that "American Negroes in great numbers, are joining the Communist party" was received with shouts of applause. And the outrage committed on the German flag by New York Communists and the fact that Mayor LaGuardia, up to date, has done nothing about this incident or the American Department of State either and that LaGuardia has further aggravated the situation by refusing papers of admittance to a German citizen "in reprisal for the treatment of Jews in Germany."

It will be a great pity for American Jews to permit themselves to be identified with the Communist party. And it will be calamity for the American Negro to allow himself to be seduced in the same way.

In cities dominated by Jews, it is noticeable that Negroes are consistently and utterly deprived of their ordinary employments. Negroes are practically segregated

in Washington, New York and all other Atlantic seaboard cities. It is the same in the Lake States. No where in America except in the southern states is the Negro, except in rare instances, given even a chance.

Of all the hopeless and unhappy creatures it is the expatriated Negro of the Harlem district in New York City.

## ALLEGED COMMUNIST BEATEN IN ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 1.—(AP) Robert Woods, described by police as a Communist leader in this section, reported to officers today that he was badly beaten by four men who attempted to abduct him.

According to Woods, the four men who drove up before his home and called him to the porch and dragged him toward their automobile by his feet. Screams, Wood said, drew neighbors and the men left.

Woods and a woman booked as Beth Mitchell were arrested yesterday on charge of violating the city ordinance prohibiting dissemination of radical literature.

## THE RED'S BRIAR PATCH

No Communist was among those present to urge Governor Graves to veto the so-called "anti-sedition" bill at the open hearing held Friday. No Communist wants the bill vetoed, although it is supposedly designed to eradicate Communism in Alabama.

The Reds thrive on persecution. Where their doctrines fall on deaf ears they are able to gain converts simply by pointing out instances of apparent persecution. Read any paper of Communist literature. The Sacco-Vanzetti case, the Tom Mooney case, the Scottsboro case, and instances where members of their party have run afoul of the law occupy 90 per cent of the space. Only the remaining 10 per cent is devoted to the principles of Communism.

Throwing a Communist in jail is like throwing a rabbit in the briar patch. It is their greatest pleasure. No Communist who has not been confined for at least six months is looked upon with favor by the remaining brethren of the "cause."

Six months in jail, or even a year, is as necessary to the making of a good Communist as a sole flight to the making of an aviator. It is the climax to apprenticeship, the final touch which makes the neophyte worthy of his spurs.

Six months in jail, or even a year, does not change a Communist into a 100 per

cent American citizen, but rather does it converted to Communism, then sentenced to jail does not help confirm his belief in the teachings of Stalin, Marx, Lenin, or whoever is supplanting the present day Communists with their texts.

Six months in jail, or even a year, when imposed upon a Communist does no more good than putting a maniac in a straight jacket for the same length of time.

If, as Mr. Hearst tells us, our younger generation is in grave danger of being



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The enforcement of the anti-sedition bill in Alabama would help the Communist cause in this State more than electing a Communist governor.

converted to Communism, then sentencing Communists to jail does not help Americanism, rather does it help the Reds. Youth, by its very nature, is attracted by those who are willing to suffer for their beliefs.

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# Reds Gathering On Sedition Bill

Expected To Pack House  
Gallery When Measure  
Comes Up Tomorrow

By ATTICUS MULLIN

While only three communist agitators are said to have been present in the Senate gallery when that body passed the Street-American Legion anti-sedition bill, information was given members of the Legislature Wednesday that the national communist organization, in cooperation with the communist headquarters in Birmingham will have 50 or more agitators in Montgomery by Thursday in an effort to show down and defeat the bill if it comes before the House for concurrence in the Senate amendments Friday.

One of the best known Alabama communist women sat in the Senate gallery when the bill was before that body and applauded as senators made points against the bill as did her two men companions. The same woman with many more sympathizers will be in Montgomery Friday. As a matter of fact she is said to be in Montgomery now with 10 or 15 adherents.

In a brief for the bill which has been furnished members of the Legislature, it is pointed out that Alabama now has an anarchy and treason statute which is much more drastic than the Street-American Legion bill. The brief points out that under the present law anarchy and treason and sedition are felonies carrying drastic prison punishment up to life. Under the measure as passed by the Senate these crimes are made misdemeanors and do not have to await Grand Jury action. They can be attended to with fines.

The Street-American Legion bill provides that any publication favoring the overthrow of the government by force commits a misdemeanor and those responsible for such publication can be arrested and fined. So far as is known, there is not a daily or weekly reputable newspaper in Alabama which has ever advocated the overthrow of the government by force or will ever advocate such a strenuous move. The only publications now appearing in Alabama which advocate overthrow by force are communistic publications, one of which was formerly published in Birmingham, and is now said to be published in Chattanooga.

Another statement being made among legislators Wednesday evening was that the main attorney for the share croppers union in Alabama, a semi-communistic organization, was a Montgomery man.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.  
EVENING UNION

JUL 24 1935

## Negroes and Communism

Will the black man go Red? Will the American Negro finally turn to Communism in a mistaken belief that the fallacious doctrines of Marx and Lenin offer him more than he can hope for under the system that has enabled him to make such giant strides since the Emancipation Proclamation? James Weldon Johnson, one of the most progressive and sanest of Negro leaders today, does not believe he will. He admits, however, that there is a well defined and popular movement among colored Americans for a Communist revolution.

There is in this country today, Mr. Johnson tells us in "This Week," a Negro Brain Trust, composed of young intellectuals who believe Communism would solve the economic problems of the American Negro, and that, once these were solved, the Negro would enjoy financial and social standing that he does not have today. In other words, making him economically independent would cure all his other ills. Mr. Johnson not only denies this assumption, he denies that a solution of the economic handicap of the colored race would mean that all their troubles would disappear. He does not believe that the Communist program will appeal to many Negroes.

The attitude of the Negro toward Communist propaganda should be of very great interest to every white American. If the Negro should "go Red," or if any considerable number of colored men and women should decide to foment a Red revolution in this country, serious disorders would result. Negroes constitute, roughly, about one-sixth of our population.

Happily colored Americans, although they are by no means satisfied with their situation here, believe time will right most wrongs, believe they are making progress toward better things. The great majority of them are loyal and patriotic—much to the disgust of Reds of both the white and colored race who have tried their best to set the black man against his white neighbor in this country.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
August 30, 1935

## COMMUNISM PROBED

Propaganda Spread At Negro University, Charge

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Washington Post said Friday a secret investigation of alleged communistic activity at Howard University, Negro college here, had been made by the Interior Department.

Louis R. Glavis, department investigator, the paper said, directed the query and has made a detailed report to Secretary Ickes. The university is supervised by Ickes' department.

An affidavit offered to Senator Tydings (D., Md.) formed the basis of the investigation, The Post said. It reported the affidavit, signed by Dr. Kelly Miller, dean emeritus of the university, protested against "revolutionary speeches" and "dangerous conditions," and also criticized Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, university president, and the Communist party.

The Post quoted Dr. Miller as saying most of his charges were based on speeches and incidents at a recent economic conference conducted at the university. Dr. Miller was further quoted as saying John W. Ford, Negro candidate for vice president on the Communist ticket in the last election, was one of the speakers, and that he "urged that the Negro get his rights through revolution or force."

## Brooklyn, N. Y. Eagle

### Discusses Problems Due to Growth of Radicalism Among the Negroes

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

The general conditions of affairs are an opportunity for the American Negro to place a higher premium on his citizenship, and show a greater concern for the future of his racial group.

The cataclysms of the body politic, the economic maelstrom, the insidious isms inimical to the basic principles of our government and breaking of party lines are of grave concern to the thoughtful American Negro. He can't be neutral or helpless in the chaotic struggle. He must see and know his part, and play mainly to those interests and principles, vital and fundamental to the preservation of American institutions.

The present situation calls for such deportment on the part of its loyal and patriotic citizens. Besides these conditions, the Italian-Ethiopian situation is big in its possible effect upon the world, and especially upon the American Negro.

Radicalism is growing upon the Negro, and that too fast. For his position is different from any other racial group in the nation. Politically he is in the minority, and economically he is as a foam on the sea. He

lacks the amount of force and power to incorporate himself an influential factor in enterprises and positions that control and govern the development and progress of the nation. A sane and sound leadership is needed in the large cities and business centers, where radicalism is dangerously aggressive.

The times and conditions call for an extraordinary type of Negro leaders. They must be more than educated, more than professional. The true spirit of leadership is in a deep, strong, honest conviction and feeling of a life dedicated and consecrated to the interest and welfare of all the people.

It is natural to have sympathy, more or less, for one's fatherland, when it is in distress or a crisis; but it is not good Americanism for any racial group of Americans to express their feelings in hostile demonstration to another racial group of Americans. When their feelings get to war heat, they should go where the battle rages, and not precipitate strife in America. Whether naturalized, or of foreign parentage, or American-born, we are all Americans, one and inseparable.

REV. W. R. LAWTON.

Brooklyn, Sept. 6.



Negro and Radicalism - 1935

New York World Telegram

JAN 12 1935

## Long Invites Negroes, Too, to Join Share-Wealth Clubs

Negro Reporter, However, Has a Hard Time Interviewing  
Kingfish as He Parades Hotel Room Barefoot—  
Move Seen as Bid for Vote in Campaign.

By J. W. HASLETT,  
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

Huey P. Long renounced Southern tradition today and invited Negroes in the North to join his Share the Wealth clubs. Numerous Washington dispatches have reported that he plans to run for President in 1936, and today's statement by the Senator was construed by political observers to be his first play for the colored vote.

While Huey paraded barefoot cut me off." He explained his newly expressed attitude toward the Negro as he was asked if he knew that Joseph A. Davis, 65, edged into the room, evidently trying to stop the interview. As he finished saying . . . "they don't lem, was the principal organizer of vote in the South, you know," he turned his back and stalked toward

"Can the Negro vote in the North?" he countered. "Well, they can become members of the clubs. In fact we want them. They don't vote in the South, you know."

The case was taken under advisement by the Court after more than eleven hours of argument during which the judges directed a stream of pointed questions at the government's counsel, Assistant Solicitor General Angus MacLean. The Court's attitude has aroused

rule. . . air waves by talking fifteen minutes over his scheduled radio. . . ne, appeared this morning unshaven and swathed in maroon silk pajamas.

"How are you coming along in New York?" he was asked.

"Fine, I had a good sleep last night," he retorted in a husky voice blinking his tired looking eyes.

"How many new club members have you?"

"Haven't paid any attention to it. In a month we ought to have a million in the State."

He wandered into a sitting room where several men were sitting around smoking.

"Weren't you almost cut off on the radio last night?"

Huey spun around to the doorway. "Where?"

"At the broadcasting station."

"Certainly not! They were good

## Court in Uproar; Hamid Jailed for Anti-Jew Talk



SUFI ABDUL HAMID

lisher, together with a white sheriff and police officers, painted Hamid as an instigator of racial hatred, a racketeer, a blasphemer,

NEW YORK (By Wire to the AFRO) —Sufi Abdul Hamid, nicknamed "The Black Hitler," is in jail and awaiting sentence which will be meted out to him Saturday by Magistrate Aurelio in Washington Heights Court.

After beating the rap on more serious charges some weeks ago, following city-wide protest against his Hitleristic anti-Jewish oratory, Hamid Tuesday was found guilty of the comparatively minor charges of preaching atheism and selling pamphlets without a permit. He was denied bail.

### Police Threat

From the crowded courtroom, from the number of prominent citizens and law officers on hand ready to tell the court what kind of a man the uniformed Mohammed is, it was quite evident that a trap had been set for the caustic soap-box orator and non-conformist and that the threat of police and certain Harlemites to "get him yet" was being realized. Hamid was a pioneer in picketing of white Harlem stores that refused to employ colored persons.

After the routine arraignment and finding of guilt, the magistrate then asked for character witnesses who through their testimony would help him decide the kind of sentence to give.

### Moore and Police

It was at this point that Fred Moore, the publisher, together with a white sheriff and police officers, painted Hamid as an instigator of racial hatred, a racketeer, a blasphemer,

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.  
POST

JUN 27 1935

## NEGROES TOLD TO AVOID RADICALISM

Knights Of Pythias Hear  
Oscar W. Adams

Delegates attending the 48th annual convention of the Alabama Grand Lodge, Negro Knights of Pythias, here this week were urged by the grand chancellor, Oscar W. Adams, to "follow the leadership of men and concerns who mean good to the nation and to the South."

They were advised to "keep their feet on the ground and their heads cool, exercising sober judgment" when presented with radical propositions by strangers who pretend to be friends.

"Stick to your real friends," he said. "No race needs them more than we. Those we have we cannot afford to lose."

During the past four years more than \$156,000 have been paid to beneficiaries in the organization's insurance association, it was reported. Business of the meeting was to be completed today.

Meeting simultaneously at Pythian Hall, 319 18th-st. n, is the Grand Court of Calanthes, women's auxiliary.

### Secretary Weeps

The courtroom was hectic. Hamid's followers resented, some getting too noisy outside the courtroom were arrested. Miss Edna Webster, his secretary, cried.

Patrolman Allen J. Benton served the summons on Hamid Monday. Both Allen and Sergeant Alexander P. Holley, who heard the atheistic talk, preferred the charges.



## HUEY LONG EXPOSED BY OWN CAMPAIGN LEAFLET

By: L.G.

NEW YORK - (CNA) Huey Long has been heralded by many as the white messiah and saviour of the Negro people. 1-19-35 *new York*

Rev. Joseph A. Davis, lecturer and president of the Investment Home Building Association of Harlem declares that if Huey Long was made Dictator of the United States "it would be the greatest thing that could happen for the country - and the Negro". (Amsterdam News, Dec. 15, 1934).

### Huey the Hero

Writing in the Dec. 8, 1934 issue of the Chicago Defender, A. N. Fields says that "Senator Long has awakened not only the poor white but has encouraged the black voters of his state as well to assert their political prerogatives in the use of the ballot....in his recent battle for political supremacy he did not seek to enhance his political fortunes through use of race prejudice and religious bigotry".

To quote an Associated Negro Press dispatch which appeared in the January 5th issue of the Afro-American, "While the whites are cursing Long about his row with Louisiana, colored persons are singing his praises for they are not affected, and should he continue his legislative aids there may be a new day for the darker-hued citizens".

### "For Whites Only"

Recently, a copy of a November 6th campaign leaflet addressed to the people of Louisiana and signed by Huey Long has come into our possession. In it, Long makes clear his position on the much-ballyhooed amendment to repeal the poll tax of \$1 a year. One of the scream headlines is "Watch out for fake 'negro' issue". The leaflet states in part:

"...There are 250,000 white men and women in Louisiana above the age of 21 who do not vote because they either do not or cannot pay their poll taxes. This amendment will place Louisiana on the same basis as other states and give us a full vote for each white citizen. An underhanded and secret lie is being spread that this amendment for free poll tax will let the negro vote in our elections. That is not true and everybody telling it either does not know the truth or doesn't want to know the truth. The free poll tax law will not affect the status of the negro at all. Negroes can pay and do pay their poll taxes now, but that doesn't give them any better chance to vote." (Emphasis mine. - Note Long's use of the small "n" in the word Negro - L.G.)

Whether or not Senator Huey Long is a friend of the oppressed Negro people, we will leave to our readers to decide.

## Asks Cooperation of Negroes, Jews Here

### William H. Davis Grants Interview to The Day on Pressing Racial Issues

Following the publication of a series of articles by Leon Savage in The Day, a Jewish daily, on the Negro-Jewish situation in New York and the country, William H. Davis, general manager of The Amsterdam News, granted an interview to The Day on the question.

"I am convinced," Mr. Davis stated, "that the Negroes in Harlem will find the road to a genuine understanding with the white business man, and of course with the Jews. I believe that both sides are vitally interested in avoiding anything that may involve a dispute or a conflict. And each side should be interested that the other benefits by such an understanding."

To the question of the reporter about the "Black Hitler" Mr. Davis stated, "Suffi, the so-called 'Black Hitler' represents only a very small group which does not appreciate the situation and does not care what is going to happen to the true interests of the race."

"We Negroes are a minority here in this country, just as the Jews. All minorities must realize that certain specific problems which confront them press for solution and that they can be solved only by pooling their strength and by uniting their forces. This is particularly true with regard to Jews and to Negroes. Both groups came to America from foreign lands. We came from Africa, the Jews from all corners of the world."

Then the reporter inquired what the relationship is between the Negroes and the Jews after the Negro population had turned a deaf ear to the "Black Hitler's" appeals.

"The Negroes are very friendly to the Jews," Mr. Davis stated. "I must say that before the appearance of the so-called 'Black Hitler' we never heard a sound of hostility towards the Jews on the part of Negroes. I believe that you cannot find anywhere in America two races who are so friendly to each other as the Jews and Negroes. The 'Black Hitler' found but a handful of followers but that is a mere accident and will soon leave no trace. This self-styled dictator had just taken advantage of unemployment among the Blacks. He thought that it was a catch slogan and the best method to bring about race hatred. He found a few gullible and naive listeners who took him seriously. Their number, however, is very limited. The great majority of Negroes have understood

the senselessness and futility of such conceptions. We Negroes know from bitter experience that race hatred is always pregnant with dangerous results, particularly when the flame of such hatred is fanned by the storm of the crisis and unemployment."

The reporter inquired what can be done to prevent a recurrence of anti-semitic outbursts in the future.

"My opinion," answered Davis, "is that we need an organized and planned understanding between the recognized representatives of the Whites and the Negroes. We are carrying on in Harlem now the idea of a movement for the federation or union of all organized Negro groups, something similar to the American Jewish Congress. If this should come to pass, it will be still easier to negotiate with the representatives of the Jews for a plan and for understanding that will be beneficial to both sides."



# Negro and Radicalism - 1935

## Disguised Brigandage

THE move, sponsored by Congressman MITCHELL, of Illinois, for a congressional investigation of alleged communistic teaching at Howard University, will be recognized as the disguised hand of the gentlemen, who, operating mostly from ambush, have been engaged in a desperate effort to dislocate the present and past administrations.

Suddenly the brigands have spread a general alarm, that because there was a conference at the university to discuss economic conditions, and the social science department acted as a sort of host to the conference, at one session of which the president of the university presided, there is in the making at Howard a conspiracy to overthrow the government, and therefore, President JOHNSON should be thrown out. 6-8-35

The recent PWA investigation, having failed to accomplish the elimination of the university head, and the brigands having exhausted the ammunition this investigation afforded them, the economic conference, attended as it was by people of all political shades, the most radical of whom expressed themselves in terms not complimentary to the existing order, gave the gentlemen in ambush a new fighting piece. Norfolk Va.

Then, it happened that following the conference the sub-committee of the congressional committee in charge of the Interior Department appropriations visited the university and were received in Rankin Chapel by the president, faculty, and student body. The sub-committee was accompanied by Congressman MITCHELL. There was commendation of Howard by chairman ZIONCHECK, of the committee, for "preserving the ideal of academic freedom." This brought from Mr. MITCHELL, according to the press reports, mild chastisement of the university for indulging the conference, participated in by some of the radicals.

This in turn brought from President JOHNSON, so the reporters say, the declaration that academic freedom is more important than money. Mr. MITCHELL took umbrage at this attitude upon the part of President JOHNSON—the only attitude that any college or university president worth his salt could conscientiously take—and announced that he was going to introduce his resolution to investigate.

Well, another investigation will not do Howard any harm, if anybody takes Mr. MITCHELL's resolution seriously. We do not question his sincerity in respect of his dislike for radical indoctrination of young students. He said that his own son had imbibed too freely of Red doctrines at a western university and he and the boy's mother had some difficulty in getting him back in the middle of the road.

But any thought that Howard University's president or faculty are giving encouragement to so-called

Red doctrines is grounded in misapprehension and misinformation, mostly the latter, generated by the aforesaid group of brigands who, for the past several years, have been trying to dislodge President JOHNSON. Before Mr. JOHNSON came they were busy dislodging his predecessors.

The most regrettable thing about the latest barrage from ambush, directed by a superannuated gunner, who is perfectly willing to prostitute himself in the cause of destruction, is that the brigands have apparently induced—or seduced—Congressman MITCHELL to drag their red herring across the trail.

## THE NEGRO AND COMMUNISM.

The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Reisner, pastor of Broadway Temple Methodist Episcopal Church, appears to be greatly perturbed over the American Negro embracing communism. Speaking from the pulpit the Sunday following the Harlem riot, he said in part:

Godless communism is doing more harm to the Negroes than even fanatical religion. \*\*\*Patience was preserved in Slavery by crude religious beliefs and customs until redress came in an orderly way instead of destruction by aimless revolution. Negroes now suffer inestimable injustices, but outbreaks like that on Tuesday supported those who claim that black folks cannot progress gradually.

Communism has made very little progress among colored Americans. Fundamentally, the Negro is too individualistic to subscribe to communistic philosophy. The Rev. Dr. Reisner errs as do many white Americans who pay more attention to effect than to cause. While it can be authoritatively said that Stalin has few disciples among Negroes at this time, it is doubtful if a similar statement could be made in the future. The answer will depend primarily upon the treatment to be accorded this group of citizens.

When white Americans lynch, mistreat, discriminate and draw the color line against one-tenth of its population, they are playing into the hands of communists. These professional agitators take advantage of every opportunity to incite the Negro by stressing the many injustices to which he is subjected.

In view of the numerous grievances which the Negro justly nurses, he should be applauded and praised for the rare restraint shown under the circumstances.

The Rev. Dr. Reisner refers to the patience evinced by the Negro in slavery; but if history is correct, it was not until nearly 200,000 black soldiers joined with white soldiers of the North that the Union was saved and emancipation became a reality. This philosophy of patience he advocates makes no appeal to the young men and women of the race coming out of high schools and colleges, who, trained and competent to fill jobs, find the door of opportunity closed in their faces merely because of their color. Such rank discriminations do more than anything else to sow the seeds of communism, to create bitterness and unrest.

The Rev. Dr. Reisner is asked the pertinent question: What is the pulpit doing to promote racial advancement? The pastor of Broadway Temple Methodist Episcopal Church preaches to his communicants on the evil effects of communism to the Negro, but has he condemned lynching and urged the passage of the Wagner-Costigan Bill? What has he done to secure for the Negro economic justice or to stamp out the "inestimable injustices" which he confesses the Negro suffers?

If ever a race has shown Job-like patience, it is the American Negro. If ever a race has evidenced a consistency for law observance in the securing of his rights of citizenship as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution, it is the American Negro. If ever a race has been deeply religious it is the American Negro, although his prayers and unflinching devotion have done little to prevent the burning at stake and hanging of innocent men, women and children of the race, or to ameliorate conditions so that he might earn his daily bread without encountering race and color prejudices.

With respect to the Rev. Dr. Reisner's charge that "outbreaks like that of Tuesday support those who claim that black folks cannot

progress gradually," it is the same progress gradually. Americans" who do everything in their power by many white Americans who are given to indicting a whole race for the acts of a few. As has been said in these columns, the disturbance referred to is deeply deplored by the great majority of Harlemites. Of the 300,000 only a handful participated, which makes no difference to those who deal in generalization.

It is strange that those who make the absurd contention that "black folks cannot



6-8-35

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# THE NEGRO AND COMMUNISM.

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# SEES NO HOPE FOR NEGROES IN COMMUNISM

*Boston Chronicle*  
Believes Isolation Theory Not

Practical

4-6-35

James Weldon Johnson, diplomat-poet, essayist and linguist, now professor of creative literature at Fisk University, was the Ford Hall lecturer last Sunday night. The audience was largely composed of colored people. *Boston, Mass.*

Mr. Johnson's speech followed closely the principles enunciated in his latest book, "Negro Americans, What Now?" The speaker was not sold on the idea of Negroes becoming Communists, and reiterated his opinion as laid down in his book, as follows: "Except to a visionary there are no indications that the present strength of Communism is able or will be able to work such a change, (the banning of racial discriminations) either by persuasion or by military coup. In the situation as it now exists it would be positively foolhardy for us as a group to take up the cause of Communistic revolution and thereby bring upon ourselves all of the antagonisms that are directed against it in addition to those we already have to bear. It seems to me that the wholesale allegiance of the Negro to Communistic revolution would be second in futility only to his individual resort to physical force."

## The Exodus of the Negro

Mr. Johnson evidently does not believe in the migration of Negroes, voluntarily or involuntarily, to foreign parts. In fact he cannot find a single country that would be willing to take Afro-Americans. Therefore despite the annoyance to the whites and the discomfort to the Negroes, the white Americans will simply have to sustain a situation that is of their own making for the Negro is in this country to stay.

He however does not believe in "taking it on the chin" with a "thank you," on the question of what he terms "isolation." He wants full citizenship and whatever it connotes, for the Negro. He claimed that the

isolationist viewpoint would relegate him to a permanent secondary status in the country.

Mr. Johnson still retained evidence of his recent illness which was demonstrated in the lack of his former urbanity in dealing with his questioners after the speech. His poem on "The Unknown Soldier" was heartily applauded.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
June 30, 1935

## MOULDERS CALLED

Local Union Condemns Circulation  
Of Communist Literature

Officers of Local No. 363, International Moulders Union, have called an organization meeting for next Saturday noon at the First St. James Church, Avondale, to which employees of the Stockham Pipe & Fitting Company, have been invited.

Union officials, in calling the meeting, said they hoped to combat the activities of persons who have been distributing literature in that section signed by "the Communist Party." They stress that "the Communist Party" or no other, organization has any connection with their activities there.

The Rev. Robert Magruder, Holt, Ala., Negro labor leader, will be one of the speakers and Moulders Union officials said he would sound a warning to the Negro employees of the company to ignore the "Communist" literature and the persons circulating it.

# Harlem's "Hitler" Hoodwinks "G" Men in Deportation



NEW YORK — The Federal Government's "G" men, who sought to deport Harlem's chief agitator, Sufi Abdul Hamid, to Turkey or wherever he came from, found themselves stumped when they learned he is a native of Massachusetts. 6-29-35

The white-turbaned street orator, whose usual costume includes high black boots and a gold-braided riding cloak of green velvet, was seized at his home, 139 West 140th Street, and taken to Ellis Island on charges of violating the immigration laws.

Abdul has been urging white storekeepers to employ colored help in all of the stores in Harlem. Preachments by him are believed to have had much to do with the Harlem riot, although nothing of a tangible nature could be pinned on him.

Jewish merchants throughout the section have resorted to every ruse to be rid of him, and his propaganda. After the deportation act failed, his enemies were forced to look for another form of attack.

## GRAVES VETOES THE ANTI-SEDITION BILL

Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama was at his best yesterday when he wrote a message to the legislature vetoing the "anti-sedition" bill. He spoke for freedom of the human spirit in a tormented bewildered world, beyond which no statesman could be expected to go.

The juice in the Graves veto is in this capsule:

I call your attention to Chapter 72 in our Code on Criminal Anarchy. This law will surely meet any ends that should be met along this line. Extreme laws will not accomplish the ends sought. Thought is never killed by force. We may be sure that we will stay safe so long as our speech, our press and our right to meet are all free. We all want any thought, if that thought is true, to live. No thought that is not true can sell itself in the markets of free trend in thought. The spotlight of pitiless publicity will kill any thought that is not true. We are taught to "know the truth and the truth will make us free." Let us not fear the enlightened opinion of our public.

I think this bill, if made a law, will add to, rather than cure, any ills it seeks to cure.

The law as it stands can protect property and human life against marauders; nothing in heaven above or in the earth below can protect any human being against the ideas which his neighbors now entertain. Either they are good or bad ideas—law cannot make him secure in his complacency.

As the power of government increases, and it must increase if we are to have life, it is the plain duty of all who love the principle of democratic rule to fight constantly for the utmost freedom of criticism.

As we have more government we must have more and not less of criticism. We ought not to make any mistakes in regulating or restricting criticism as we march through this dreary life either in the United States or Great Britain, the only nations on earth that now care a fig for spiritual freedom.

Governor Graves's veto of this unwise, unnecessary measure does his heart and his mind great credit. The Advertiser congratulates him.



# Negro and Radicalism - 1935.

## COMMUNISM OR CHRISTIANITY?

We have stood on the side lines watching the *the Record* *5-22-35* *Philadelphian* Communism and Christianity and it now behooves us to speak. Communism is making a desperate appeal to the Negro race in America. Will it heed the call? That is a question many thoughtful people are asking, and that is the question which, in part, this article will attempt to answer.

First, let it be understood that Communism does not profess to be religious. It looks upon religion as "the opiate of the people." It is diametrically opposed to Christianity—so much so that no one can be a full-fledged Communist and at the same time be a Christian. Communism makes its appeal to the lower classes—the "under dogs" of society. Where there is poverty Communism makes headway. Where there is ignorance Communism also makes headway. But where there is a combination of both ignorance and poverty **Communism makes most headway.** Add to ignorance and poverty an element of discouragement bordering on despair and you have the perfect setting for the growth of Communistic theories.

Communism made its greatest progress in Russia because the Russian ruling class was so unmindful of the working people as to leave them in ignorance (the illiteracy of all Russia at the time of the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of Communism was about 80 per cent.). The rulers of Russia also forgot that the laborer is worthy of his hire and in the distribution of the products of the empire left the majority of the people in poverty. The will of the rulers of Russia was enforced not by the reasoning with the people, but by the iron hand of oppression. Men were exiled, shot and imprisoned for trivial things—for just asking for a square deal. Strong was the Empire that the common people despaired. The youth had to leave the country to think clearly and to give expression to their thoughts. Des-

pair covered Russia like a blanket. To the out-pinely and think that because the Negro is side world Russia seemed to be one of the poor, ignorant and oppressed that the Negro strongest of nations. Even when Japan therefore is powerless. They will make a whipped Russia in the early years of this cen-sad mistake.

tury, Russia did not realize her weakness. As yet the Negroes does not despair. But Russia, appearing strong was weak, be-the Communist is trying to teach the Negro cause "Despair" is stronger than an army. to despair; for therein is their life. If the Despair was the perfect seed for the Com-Negro feels that any unknown future is bet-munists. For Despair says anything is bet-ter than the present status quo, then he will ter than what we have. It is better, says-become a Communist, and with 10 per cent. Despair, to flee to troubles we know not of of the American people thus discontented no than to suffer what we have. one can tell what may happen.

So when the strategic moment arrived, America could never win a war with the Despair conquered Russia and put Commun-Negroes of the Nation discontented. ism on the throne, imprisoned, murdered and What are the foes of Communism? exiled her former rulers.

So successful were the Communists in their are intelligent can they understand the soph-conquest of Russia that they looked about istry of Communism. The Negro is making over the word for another country. They-rapid strides in education. Over four million found America, and they found the Negro, Negroes are in public schools. There are and they were led to believe that in the Ne-now 54,000 trained Negroes who are teach-ers in the schools to say nothing of 100 or more colleges and universities.

Next is Religion. Religion is indeed more needed than Education. For education may link up with Communism. The Communists do not foster education of a type. But not to with religion. Communists hate religion for Religion and Communism have nothing in common.

But the American people are unmindful that they have the greatest weapon to crush Communism—and that is Religion. There are 7,000,000 Negroes who are members of 40,000 churches. There are around 38,000 Negro preachers, who speak every Sunday to at least 7,000,000 Negroes. There are 20,000 Sunday schools where every Sunday at least 2,000,000 children come to learn about religion. *Christian Alexander* *5-22-35* *Philadelphian*

With this religious organization the people cannot despair. These Negroes are properly taught and led.

The Negro church is the chief agent for Adult Education—it has the Negro adult up until he dies.

The great need of the Church, however, is trained leaders. For if its leaders are un-

The American people cannot sit down su-



trained, the Church itself might become a hot-bed of Communism.

But if the ministry is trained, it can effectively put Communism down, for every intelligent preacher knows where Communism stands with regard to religion.

At present only about 3 per cent. of the Negro ministers have a Collegiate and Divinity education. Only about 10 per cent. have either collegiate or divinity training. These men form the most forceful leadership of the Church.

There are in theological seminaries to-day about 350 young Negroes and less than 75 will graduate in 1935. Next year, however, there will be at least 500 ministers who will die and as many more who will quit their ministerial work for one cause or another. There will be at least 1,000 vacancies in the ministry this year, and not more than 75 who have served this apprenticeship to take their places.

Naturally the other 925 places will be filled by untrained men and the Negro Church will not go forward.

Furthermore there will come out of colleges and high schools at least 10,000 Negroes this year. Many of them will be lost forever to the Church, and will go back to their homes or to other places indifferent to religion, whereas most of them were enthusiastic for religion a few years back. Many of these Negroes will lend a flitting ear to Communism in their quest for something better. They will fail to listen to the old-time preacher. They will themselves fall in to the belief that Religion is the opiate of the people.

The Church must pursue a vigorous policy. To do this it must have well-trained, far-visions preachers, whose hearts are thoroughly devoted to Christianity and whose minds are trained, who understand our social structure, and who are able to point the way forward, who can take discontent and put it into its proper place, and who can kill Despair.

Only through such a ministry can Communism be warded off from the American Negro.

At present our church is doing almost nothing to train such a ministry. We have 7,000 preachers in our denomination and not 170 in

training. We do not take into the ministry 10 men a year who are college and seminary graduates. While nearly a billion dollars are spent in general education of the Negro in America, less than \$100,000 is spent for the education of ministers. While there are well-equipped Negro colleges and hospitals for training of Negro physicians, dentists, druggists, etc., there are not more than two good schools, and these are very small, in which Negro preachers are trained.

We trust these lines will fall under the eyes of some of our leading laymen who will start a movement to raise at least a million dollars to endow a school for training Christian ministers, not only that they might lead the people to a higher, personal, spiritual life, that they might help to create a nobler moral character, that they might lead institutions of good will, mutual understanding, that they might point people to eternal salvation; but that they might also aid in combatting the greatest modern foe to Christianity and the greatest menace to modern civilization—the hydra headed monster of Communism.

## Negro Refuses To Sign Oath; Fired

VALDOSTA, GA., June 1.—(P)—A negro employe of the city street department, John Priester, lost his job today because he refused to sign an oath to support the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

The State Legislature recently passed an act, requiring the pledge from employes of the State and its political subdivisions.

City Clerk John Chisholm was administering the oath to a group of employes today. Priester asked to see a copy of it. After reading it, he handed it back to the clerk and said:

"I can't sign that."

Pressed for his reason, he merely reiterated he could not sign it. The oath was read aloud by the city clerk, and Priester later read it over twice himself.

Chisholm previously had been authorized to discharge all employes who failed to comply with the law, so Priester lost his job.

## COMMUNISM—

There is a good deal of discussion these days about communism and fascism and the other isms, in their relationship to American Negroes. Recently Dr. R. R. Wright wrote at length in the Christian Recorder about this relationship, under the title "Communism or Christianity?" Dr. Wright concludes his discourse with the appellation, "hydra-headed monster of Communism."

I was talking with a college-professor friend of mine the other day about the possible effect upon the Negro of a serious struggle on the part of the white people of America to change the constitution of the United States. He too was fearful lest such a struggle might lead to communism or facism; and when I asked why he feared such a result he had no definite reason.

How much we are ruled by names and labels! Put the label of communism upon it and we look with horror, regardless of the facts. On the other hand the worst kind of government comes in for praise if it only bears the name of democracy.

When we get a government in the United States that will actually bring more justice and opportunity to oppressed Negroes, I do not care what label it bears. I only know that under democracy and our present constitution we suffer lynchings, proscriptions of every kind, Jim Crow, segregation, unequal school facilities, bad streets and living conditions, and all the rest of the oppressions which are thought to be products of different kinds of government from that under which we live in the United States.

What's in a name? If democracy cruches me and holds me down, why am I any better off than folks who it is claimed are crushed and held down by communism in some other part of the world?



## 2 College Speakers Give Views on Russia's Attitude Toward Negro

**Dr. Johnson says: "Negroes in Russia has always held high positions in that country."**

**Dean Smith Says: "In Russia his color will not serve as a badge to keep him in blind alley jobs."**

CHICAGO, (ANP) — Faced by an eager, interested audience at Good Shepherd Congregational Church here Wednesday evening, Dr. James Weldon Johnson, Fisk University professor, author and former executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, advised his listeners that Negroes to attain their proper status as American citizens must fight all the time all along the line.

Among the things he said was: "I hold no brief against the principles of Communism," he observed. "But Negroes must consider, first, if there is ever going to be a Communist government in the United States, and, second, whether, if there should be, their lot would be any better."

"I don't believe there is any chance for two or three million American Communists to overthrow the American government. But, even if they should, the American public would be the same at heart. We already make public claim to a philosophy of dealing with our fellow men that is superior to Communism."

"We claim to be Christians. But the Christian religion as practiced in America has not solved our problem. I have heard it said that there is not race prejudice in Communist Russia. I don't dispute that. But many of us forget that there was no prejudice against Negroes in Czarist Russia. Negroes have always held high positions in that country. Pushkin, a Negro, is the country's national poet."

CHICAGO, (ANP) — One of the unusual meetings of this year at the University of Chicago took place Wednesday when Dean H. M. Smith spoke to a large group of university men and women on the question "What Has Russia Done to The Color Line?"

Dean Smith of the School of Religion, Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, spent last summer traveling and studying in Russia. His discussion grew out of the experiences of this visit. Some of the interesting facts brought out by Dr. Smith were:

"There are no Jim Crow laws of any kind in any part of Russia. Negroes are treated just like other human beings. Many of them, who belong to the communist party are holding responsible positions high in the government service. Apparently there is no limit to the promotion possibility of a Negro worker provided he is capable. In Russia his color will not serve as a badge to keep him in blind alley jobs."

"Of course it is well to remember that there are very few Negroes, whether from U. S., the West Indies or Africa, in all of Russia. But the few who are there enjoy full and complete equality."

### THE NEGRO AND COMMUNISM

Communism appeals to the "underdog." Communism flashed in poverty. Communism offers an idealistic economic opportunity for the "down-and-outer"—at least he thinks so. Unless matters get better Communism will not gain a real foothold in America. 4-9-35

Communism is making overtures to the American Negro. Its offer seems rosy enough. In fact the Negro has been so inured to hardship that the very rosiness of Communism causes many Negroes to doubt—While we give great place to the influence particularly the very ignorant, who are still of materialistic forces in social and economic

under the "divine authority" of the white man. But to the more intelligent and half-educated, Communism is offering at least a flirting chance. *Philosophy* There is no place for Atheism in the history. There is no place for Atheism in the practical thinking of man. And a group that

The Negro has never thought much of economics. Even college graduates are ignorant of economics. The Negroes' mind is chiefly religious. Communism is today doing more than all other elements together to wake up the Negro to his economic situation, following.

And while a large proportion of the Negroes Communism is purely economic. Science are "on relief", Communism has a willing listener. The Negro has suffered from race prejudice as no other group in America. He suffers every conceivable form of discrimination. He is exploited beyond all reason. Ordinary morals, or even the Christian religion, or sane humanitarian considerations, seem unable to check the wicked exploitation which the American Negro has to suffer at the hands of the American white man, who steals the Negroes' wages, takes his crops, steals his funds, keeps him from jury trial and endeavors to keep him from exercising the franchise.

Capitalism has many defects. But so has Communism. Men have never been able to check the wicked exploitation which the American Negro has to suffer at the hands of the American white man, who steals the Negroes' wages, takes his crops, steals his funds, keeps him from jury trial and endeavors to keep him from exercising the franchise.

Capitalism must change; indeed is changing; but not into Communism.

But the Negroes' problem is neither Capitalism or Communism; it is one of a proper evaluation of the Negroes' personality, of giving to the Negro a square deal. And we do not have any evidence that the Communists are any more likely to give us a square deal than the capitalists. Indeed, as bad as the situation is, up to this time, the Communists have a little the better of the Communists in the treatment of Negroes.

We therefore do not tell Negroes not to study Communism. Investigate and find all that is possible about it. And many things will be found to be profitable. Certainly it is far better to study Communism than to study nothing whatsoever about the economic system under which we live—and suffer and die.

But the Negro must study Communism, must investigate Communism. The Negro must not accept Communism without study without investigation. Communism, as we have studied it does not offer a solution to the problems of the Negro in America.

In the first place, Communism denies to religion its rightful place in human society. It teaches that religion is the "opiate of the people." And many Communists deny God. Communism causes many Negroes to doubt—While we give great place to the influence particularly the very ignorant, who are still of materialistic forces in social and economic

pan into the fire."



## The Pacific Movement

**T**HANKS TO the alertness and inquisitive trend of an Amsterdam News staff writer, last week this newspaper was able to present an exclusive and thorough article on what first appeared to be a Japanese-inspired movement to lead Negroes into revolt against the American government in the event of war between the two countries.

One Dr. A. Takahashi, alias Dr. Takis, has appeared in numerous cities in the East in recent months, purporting to be effecting an alliance of all the darker peoples of the world, with Japan as the sponsor. An Amsterdam News writer, who was careful to be accompanied by a witness, attended a number of meetings of the Harlem unit on Lenox avenue and listened for weeks to the fiery speeches of alleged disciples of Dr. Takahashi. He also gained the confidence of certain members and officers.

Many of these speakers appeared convinced that Japan was interested actively in world domination through the darker races in Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Western Hemisphere. The Pacific Movement Inc., was presented as a revolutionary organization which would give every dark racial group self-determination.

After long investigation our writer learned that the Harlem unit of the Pacific Movement was stirred by internal dissension. He also learned that police were seeking Dr. Takahashi for parading under false colors collecting money fraudulently, and that the "revolt" chieftain was disavowed by the Japanese consul in New York and the reputable Japanese organizations. We are not naive enough to believe that any Japanese official would recognize Takahashi if he were a genuine agent of the Tokio government. That isn't diplomacy.

Dr. Takahashi has fled the city, or he is keeping under cover these days, and we are reasonably certain that he is a fake and has exploited the spirit of nationalism to dupe and mislead a few thousand members of minority groups.

The other day a delegation from the Harlem unit visited the paper's offices and complained of "inaccuracies" in the story we carried. One complaint was that we said Takahashi actually planned to start a rebellion among Negroes and overthrow white civilization. Another was that he was sent here by Tokio to sponsor armed rebellion. The third was that he collected 25 cents for fingerprints to be sent to Japan. The fourth was that a speaker said the Japanese government would furnish rifles and money to strike when the time came.

As for the first, second and fourth complaints, The Amsterdam News stated that these things had been said in meetings in Harlem attended by Negroes and Orientals. We are confident of the integrity of our staff writer, who did not accuse the Japanese government of anything. As for the 25-cent fee for fingerprinting, he had the word of a number of former leaders of the Harlem unit. The fingerprinting angle is nowise important, in that the Harlem Pacific Movement does not deny that Takahashi is apparently a faker, and that he sold tickets for a dance in New Jersey when no such affair was scheduled to be held at the hall he designated.

Faker or genuine, we are sorry that Negroes lent an ear to Takahashi. We believe that it is foolish and suicidal for Negroes to seek to gain full citizenship in America by other than peaceful means. Cultural and spiritual alliance with other oppressed peoples, white or colored, is desirable for us. However, any revolt against government in America would be followed by a merciless slaughter of innocent Negroes.

## LONG MEN SILENT ON RACIAL SET-UP

### 'Share-the-Wealth' Truck Crew Non-Committal on Reported Negro Organizers

Members of the sound truck crew of Rev. Gerald P. Smith, organizer of Senator Huey P. Long's "Share-the-Wealth" clubs, are non-committal about activities of reported Negro organizers.

The crew members and their truck spent Friday night here, en route to Valdosta, where Mr. Smith was to make a speech last night. Interviewed as they were leaving Macon, Ga., early yesterday, they said they do not know whether Mr. Smith will speak later in Macon. He did not accompany them here.

They also had no comment to make on plans of Rev. Jason Welsh Kinsman of East St. Louis, Ill., Negro, quoted in the current issue of Collier's as saying he is "organizing with a special charter from the senator's office the colored brethren of the Share-the-Wealth clubs of America, with special emphasis on the fact that with Senator Long in the White House there will be no black and no white, but just American patriots equal all around."

In his Georgia speeches, so far as known, Mr. Smith has not pronounced racial equality.

The brightly-painted sound truck of the organizer bears in large print, along with other slogans, the favorite phrase of the Louisiana Kingfish—"Every man a king." Setting off this pronouncement is a gilded likeness of a coronet.

### PROF. SCHUMAN AND THE FORD BANQUET

The investigation of the Walgreen charge that the University of Chicago taught Communist ideas developed an interesting controversy between Attorney Joseph Fleming representing Charles R. Walgreen of the Walgreen chain drug stores and Prof. Frederick Schuman, member of the faculty. The so-called "Oxford oath" which is alleged to be against bearing arms for the United States in case of war and the fact that Prof. Schuman attended the banquet given James W. Ford, the late vice presidential candidate of the Communist party, became important points both in interest and explanation by the examining council.

When the question was put to Prof. Schuman, "Did you attend the banquet given Ford, vice presidential candidate of the Communist party?"

"Right," responded Schuman.

"Who invited you?"

"I do not remember, but I think it was the editor of The Chicago Defender," replied Prof. Schuman.

The Chicago Defender has upon its staff several editors, correspondents and contributors. It has no desire to deny that one invited Prof. Schuman to the Ford banquet and if one of them did, he was absolutely within his rights of the privilege granted him by those in charge of the arrangements to invite a guest.

We hold no brief for the Communist party or any other party whose teachings and principles contravene the spirit of national constitution. We are however unalterably opposed to the suppression of free speech and the prevention of legitimate institutions and people being heard when they feel that a grievance exists. The best way to establish and fortify oppression and tyranny is to deny the freedom of speech, freedom of thought, expression and action in what we call a democracy.

### American Negroes and Communist Strategy

**T**WO weeks ago it was pointed out in these columns how the supposed necessities of *realpolitik* had involved Stalin in commanding French communists to cease their opposition to French militarism. The National association for the advancement of colored people now makes public an equally enlightening revelation of the way in which soviet Russia's involvement in the intrigue of Europe has nullified its supposed devotion to the rights of the exploited in the case of the Italian drive against Ethiopia. After that kingdom had appealed to the League of Nations to protect it against Mussolini's imperialism, the N.A.A.C.P. cabled Litvinov at Geneva: "Why has soviet Russia through you as foreign minister and president league council remained silent Italian Ethiopian situation? Has Russia abandoned its alleged opposition imperialism and its much publicized defense weaker peoples? Does your anti-imperialism stop at black nations? Await your reply." At the same time a telegram was sent to Mr. Earl Browder, secretary of the communist party in this country, suggesting that Mr. Browder ask M. Litvinov the reasons for his silence. To neither request was any attention paid. The full force of this incident is not

## Reas in the Making

**T**HE editor of this newspaper was referred to not so long ago by a state official as "going Red," because he published a page of articles discussing rank and unlawful discrimination against colored people in educational facilities in one of the rural counties of Tidewater Virginia.

So, one does not have to declare allegiance to the Communist Party, or turn Bolshevistic to earn the label "Red."

All one has to do is protest against a school system that is shot through and through with disparities so wide that nothing gives it a semblance of decency except the philanthropy of a western Jew who donated one-fourth of the money to build 5,000 rural school houses to take the place of one-room shacks, while the victims of the system themselves dug down into their meager means and put up another fourth or more.

To protest against the outright denial of elemental public rights is to turn "Red."

Well, if that is true, we have been red a long time and we are turning redder from now on.

grasped until it is remembered that a large part of the communist agitation in this country has been based on the alleged communist championship of the rights of Negroes. By nominating a Negro for vice-president and by all other possible means, communist organizers have tried to convince American Negroes that their race had only one means of securing justice—through embracing communism. Here again, however, communist theory has not been able to prevail in the face of the immediate political interests of the communist state.



